

Message Text

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70 60

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 STR-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

SP-02 SS-15 OIC-02 /066 W

----- 027580

R 111355Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8080

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT

SUBJECT: GATT: CHAIRMAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE

1. GATT SECRETARIAT (KAUTZOR-SCHRODER) HAS INFORMED US THAT DUNKEL OF SWITZERLAND WILL NO LONGER SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF GATT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE. DUNKEL HAS REPORTEDLY PROPOSED THAT CARLO JAGMETTI, COUNSELOR AND DCM OF SWISS DELEGATION, BE NAMED NEW CHAIRMAN-ALTHOUGH DUNKEL CLAIMS NOT TO HAVE MENTIONED THIS TO JAGMETTI. NEW CHAIRMAN MUST BE APPOINTED BEFORE NEXT MEETING OF BOP COMMITTEE.

2. BEFORE COMING TO GENEVA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, JAGMETTI WAS COUNSELOR IN LONDON. UNDERSTAND HE HAS HANDLED SOME GATT MATTERS ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS SINCE COMING HERE, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW HIM, NOR CAN WE FIND OTHERS WHO DO OUTSIDE EFTA CIRCLES. SWITZERLAND HAS TENDED COVER MOST GATT MEETINGS WITH PERSONNEL FROM BERN. REPORTEDLY, IN THE FUTURE SWISS WILL RELY ON JAGMETTI AND HIS STAFF IN GENEVA TO COVER GATT MEETINGS AND JAGMETTI WILL OPERATE IN PRACTICE AS HEAD OF DELEGATION. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN SWEDISH DELEGATION, JAGMETTI IS QUITE COMPETENT AND ACTIVE AND HAS DONE A GOOD JOB AS HEAD OF EFTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND AS ONE OF ROTATING CHAIRMAN DEUPTIES COMMITTEE OF EFTA. SWEDEN ENDORSES HIS APPOINT-

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MENT AS CHAIRMAN.

3. ALTHOUGH JAGMETTI IS NOT WELL-KNOWN IN GATT CIRCLES IN GENEVA, WE HAVE FOUND NO REASON NOT TO SUPPORT HIS NOMINATION. WHILE IT IS AWKWARD TO HAVE TWO SUCCESSIVE CHAIRMAN OF AN IMPORTANT COMMITTEE COMING FROM THE SAME COUNTRY, NEITHER WE NOR COLLEAGUES AT OTHER DELEGATION CAN COME UP WITH ANY GOOD ALTERNATIVES. QUALIFIED LDC CHAIRMAN AVAILABLE TO SERVE WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND. EC COUNTRIES HAVE ADVANCED NO CANDIDATES, AND EC COMMISSION (DUGIMONT) SAYS THEY OPPOSE CHAIRMAN FROM "BIG 3", U.K., EC, U.S. OR JAPAN. CHAIRMAN FROM JAPAN, IF AVAILABLE (DOUBTFUL) WOULD BE DISADVANTAGE IN THAT JAPAN HAS GENERALLY OPPOSED RECENT U.S. AND SWISS INITIATIVES TO REFORM COMMITTEE. NO CANADIAN OR SWEDE OF SUITABLE RANK IS AVAILABLE. U.S. CHAIRMANSHIP WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE DUE TO OUR VERY ACTIVE ROLE IN BOP MATTERS.

4. SWISS HAVE BEEN STRONG SUPPORTERS OF COMMITTEE'S WORK, INCLUDING REFORM EFFORTS, AND HAVING SWISS CHAIRMAN WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR DESIRE STRENGTHEN COMMITTEE. ALSO, JAGMETTI IS OF SUITABLY HIGH RANK. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND U.S. SUPPORT HIS NOMINATION. HOPEFULLY, HE WILL BE AVAILABLE. PLEASE ADVISE IF WASHINGTON HAS ANY OBJECTIONS. BRUNGART

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA00981
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760052-1024
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760261/aaaacaxg.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GATT: CHAIRMAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE
TAGS: OCON, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006